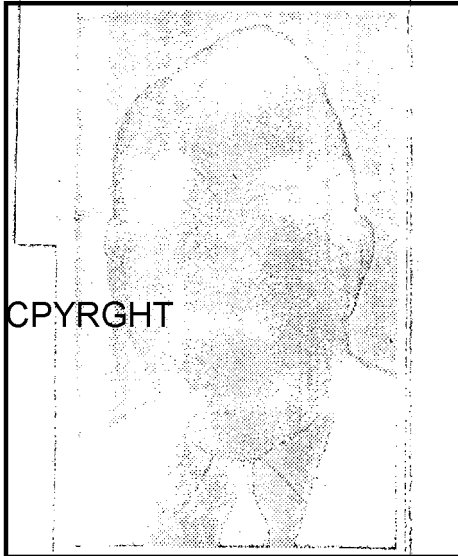


AUG 30 1967

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SEN. ERVIN
Attacks CIA Inquiries

Ervin Accuses CIA Of Attempting to 'Stand Above Law'

Special to Buffalo Evening News
and Chicago Daily News

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30—Sen. Ervin (D., N. C.), furious about backstage lobbying by the Central Intelligence Agency, has denounced the CIA for wanting to "stand above the law."

"They want the unmitigated right to kick federal employees around (and) deny them . . . the basic rights which belong to every American," Sen. Ervin declared Tuesday.

His remarks on the Senate floor represented one of the bitterest congressional attacks on the supersecret intelligence agency since its formation in 1947.

The denunciation may be widely felt, because Sen. Ervin is a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, which has jurisdiction over the CIA.

Bars Certain Questions

His comments came shortly after the Senate leadership, at the insistent request of CIA officials, abruptly scratched from Tuesday's Senate agenda an Ervin-sponsored bill to safeguard the rights of federal employees.

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Among other things, the bill prohibits the CIA and the equally secret National Security Agency from asking employees or job applicants about their sex habits, family relations or religious beliefs as part of lie detector or psychiatric tests.

In his Senate speech, Sen. Ervin read a federal law forbidding agencies of the executive branch to attempt to influence the passage of or defeat of legislation before Congress.

Hruska Supports Stand

"I suggest," he declared tartly, "that the Central Intelligence Agency could leave its polygraph (lie detector) machines long enough to conduct an investigation to determine whether this statute has been violated."

Sen. Ervin's position was promptly supported by Sen. Hruska of Nebraska, an influential Republican member of the Judiciary Committee.

Sen. Hruska criticized the "very deplorable personnel practices" of the CIA and warned that if the intelligence agency tried to win across-the-board exemption from the Ervin bill, he would fight to remove even the limited exemptions permitted by the committee.

Guarantees Apply to All

CIA officials have been active on Capitol Hill in the last few days. It was learned that Director Richard Helms has appointments with several Judiciary Committee members this week. That committee reported the Ervin bill by a unanimous vote several weeks ago.

Sen. Ervin's speech originally was circulated as a private memorandum to other Judiciary Committee members. But when his bill was erased from the agenda, he decided to read his memo into the record.

The guarantees of the Constitution, he told the Senate, have no limits or exceptions.

"They were meant to apply to all Americans; not to all Americans with the exception of those employed by the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency."

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